

Utah Sports Authority
Pete Suazo Utah Athletic Commission Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2007
2:30 p.m. (58 min. 30 sec.)

Attending: Chairman: Alan Dayton, Commissioners: Rich Montanez and Ty McCartney (on conference phone), Secretary: Bill Colbert and guests, Mike Stidham, Jeremy Horn, Ken Hansen (Legislative Rules) and Rebecca Waldron (Attorney General's office).

Meeting called to order by Alan Dayton.

Public Comment

Mike Stidham invited Jeremy Horn to demonstrate and discuss hand wrapping and what to look for in Mixed Martial Arts (MMA). Bill states that good rules are in place for hand wrapping in boxing but not for MMA. Inspectors are concerned that all fighters are protected and no one fighter has an advantage over another due to the materials used to wrap hands. Jeremy indicates that part of the problem is that those wrapping hands are not necessarily trained, educated or informed about wrapping and are just doing the best they can. Jeremy uses Power Flex, same as Coban. He says the fighter does not gain an unfair advantage using Coban; it is used to keep tape from adhering to the skin/hair. Alan asked what inspectors should be looking for. Jeremy said excessive gauze and tape should not be used, compressing the hand too much may give a slight advantage and no foreign objects should be taped or placed in the hand. There should be no tape over the knuckles or too close to the knuckles; gauze is alright over the knuckles. Jeremy said that it is not the knuckles that need the most protection; it is the bones in the back of the hand; use an "X" pattern and roll some tape in the palm of the fighter's hand so that there is no void when he makes a fist (another reason why fighters break their hands). If Coban is used, one standard roll is 15 yards and there should be no more than one roll used per hand. Some materials can solidify with water or sweat, Coban does not. Jeremy does not feel anyone in Utah is trained to use illegal or underhanded techniques. Ty would like Jeremy to make a quick instructional video that can be e-mailed to the commission to train inspectors. Alan suggested having a link on the commission's website that goes directly to a YouTube video of Jeremy wrapping hands that inspectors and trainers can refer to. Alan said the commission has an obligation to talk to the inspectors and get them educated.

Transition

Bill reports there are still IT support barriers. LES licensing software is still not available to him. The Governor's office IT staff, Randy Hughes and Richard Gowans, are still checking out licensing restrictions. There is a frustrating back log of licenses. On the positive side, he finally has a State laptop with limited access to the network; there are some conflicts that need to be resolved and some software that needs to be installed. He has a State cell phone now; same number that Mike Zollinger had. He has been working with the IT staff to get the website, which he will maintain, established. It is still under the Department of Commerce (DOC) and will probably cost \$300. Long term, he would like to have the licensing information connected to the website.

Due to simultaneous weigh-ins and/or events, purchasing a second scale would be worthwhile.

Mike Zollinger said he turned the badges for inspectors and commission members in to Alan. They are about \$65 to \$70 each and no one knows where the original badges are. New badges will need to be ordered. DOC ordered the badges through Symbol Arts.

Revenue is good. Bill has deposited \$5659 since this new commission started. Inspectors are now receiving their stipends. There are still some questions and discussions of how the commissioners should be paid. Bill does not think GOED realized how much would be involved in the transition. He is still waiting for a purchasing card from. Random drug testing is being done now at events and more kits will need to be ordered. The kits are about \$5 per test. Due to lack of privacy, Bill prefers using the oral testing kits rather than urine testing kits. Two tests are being done per event. Alan asked about shirts for the commission. Inspectors are currently wearing white polo shirts. There were shirts with PSUAC on them (nothing about DOC on them), but they are also unaccounted for. Alan would like a logo on the back of the shirts indicating the title of each commission representative. Doug Richins, the Director of Purchasing, can direct Bill to an agent that can help. Alan also wondered about ID tags for the inspectors. Bill needs to identify who makes the tags like Richard has with their picture and the State logo on them. Alan mentioned that Doug Richins would be a good resource for ID tags and badges as well.

Double Deuce Promotions Pro-Am Boxing event is scheduled at the Greek Cultural Center next Friday night, September 21. Two inspectors are needed for weigh-ins on Thursday night, September 20, location TBA. Ty is available both nights. Bob Oleson's boxing and MMA event was cancelled for this weekend at Teasers due to trouble with organization. Mike's next event is tonight at the SLCC West Jordan campus for 21 and younger and at Club Bliss tomorrow night, September 21. Weigh-ins are next Friday night, September 21, with an event on Saturday, September 22, at the E-Center. Richard is available Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Bill requested Mike schedule for the rest of the year. Bill reported that he got a call from New Mexico. The promoter wants to do an amateur kickboxing event in St. George in late October. Since USA boxing will not sanction amateur kickboxing and/or MMA, and with no recognized national entity to regulate MMA, the Commission has to regulate it as a professional event. Hopefully, within a year, the ABC will have a centralized area on-line for MMA records.

There have been some complaints about white collar boxing taking place in Orem. It is said they are declaring winners which is contrary to the statute. Bill is sending Darrin Coles down Saturday, September 21, ensure rules and the statute are followed. He will have a badge to identify himself.

Rule Making Process

Bill invited Ken to talk about the rule making process. Ken recounts talking with the Commission in July 2007 so transition rules from the DOC to the PSUAC. The rules in effect before July 1, 2007 will continue on. The only changes are the place where the rules would show up in the Administrative Codes and the name of the agency that appears at the top of the

rules and then cross references to the statute. Someone needs review the rules and make sure they are consistent with the new statute. Chris Parker, counsel over legislative research and general counsel, was responsible for drafting the statute. He mentioned there were at least two things that changed that affect the substance of the rules. Some changes will need to go through the rule making process. Rebecca has a big concern with transitioning the old rules into the new PSUAC because the statute totally disbanded everything, including the rules, as of July. Her interpretation is that everything starts anew July 1st and would probably have to go through the whole rule making process. Ken gave some background. DOC was very anxious that there were no lapses in coverage so the safety and welfare of the participants were protected. Ken presented two options, transferring the rules or simply allowing the old rules to expire, issue emergency rules that were identical and then go through the regular rule making process to get rules in place. The counsel for DOC, Lenore Epstein and David Stanley, and Ken's counsel, Dick Carey, concluded and advised at that point that they could simply transfer the rules from DOC to the new PSUAC. Ken said this needs to be addressed with PSUAC's colleagues in the AG's office. Rebecca said she had discussions with both Lenore and David and they agreed with her. The PSUAC needs to read the rules over, take some notes, meet with some interested parties and with Rebecca to go over likes and dislikes of the current rules. Ultimately, after the PSUAC is satisfied with the rules, making any changes, the rules will have to go through the whole rule making process. Alan Dayton suggested that if the PSUAC has to go through that whole process again, it would be a good time to delineate between boxing and MMA. Rebecca agreed. Ken indicated that the intent of DOC was that these rules would continue until the new PSUAC developed their own rules. Alan suggested the importance of involving the public in the drafting process. Rebecca feels they need to get on this ASAP. It doesn't have to be a lot but the PSUAC has to do the minimal to cover itself. Bill would like to work with both Ken and Rebecca through the rule making process because it is time consuming. Ken brought a flowchart of the rule making process and there was discussion regarding that process. It takes a minimum of 57 days and a maximum of 120 days to get through the process. Ken is happy to come back and talk about the details. He and Rebecca are happy to work with Bill to make sure he is set up and can file the rules when the PSUAC is ready. They will review the rule analysis the PSUAC submits with the rule to make sure the PSUAC provided the information that is required by statute and will double check the tax to make sure there haven't been any changes made that aren't properly marked. Alan confirmed with Rebecca that her job is to make sure they do not go beyond their scope of authority pursuant to State statute. She indicated they will work together as a team to have the most perfect set of rules that they possibly can. Ken pointed out that the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (GOPB) has someone that will review the rule and the legislature has an administrative rules review committee made up of 10 members of legislature. They have the authority to meet all year long so that if someone complains about something the issue is scheduled on their agenda. Rebecca feels they have a good basis to start from and it will most likely not go to the review committee. Alan asked Bill to contact some of the boxing and MMA people and start getting some input from them. Ken will send Bill a link to the specific PSUAC's rules so people can print it out, look over it and make comments. Ken feels hand wrapping should be addressed as two separate rules: one for boxing and one for

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MMA. Bill would like to see better definition of rules found in the MMA Unified Rules. Despite its complications, Bill still feels transition is moving forward.

Alan said there was a complaint about one of the inspectors losing his cool and using foul language at a recent event. Bill would like the PSUAC's input as to what action should be taken. All the commissioners agree to have him removed from the list of inspectors.

Next meeting scheduled for October 3, 2007 at 2:30 p.m.

Alan motioned to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned.